

A YEAR OF LITERACY

Every month has something to celebrate. Love history? There are months for that. Want to know more about ice cream? There's a month for that, too. Why not turn these observances into family literacy celebrations? Here are fun activities to do with your child throughout the year.

JANUARY

New Year's Day:

Traditionally, we make resolutions at the start of a new year. Make a resolution based on something you read in the paper.

National Soup Month: Ask your child his favorite soup. Talk about the different ingredients. And, of course, make sure you heat up a bowl of alphabet soup.

Winnie The Pooh Day: On Jan. 18, find a photo of an animal in the paper.

FEBRUARY

Black History Month: Look in the paper to find an event in your community focusing on this.

Children's Dental Health Month: Look through the paper for foods that are not bad for your children's teeth.

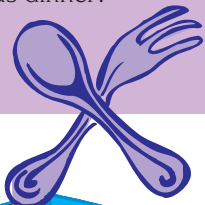
Responsible Pet Owners Month: Check the paper for a column by a veterinarian.

MARCH

Dr. Seuss' Birthday: Fox in Sox, Horton the Elephant, Cat in the Hat and Marvin K. Mooney — who can resist these guys? On March 2, choose your favorite from the library.

National Noodle Month: Check the food section and find a recipe with noodles.

National Nutrition Month: Look through the supermarket ads in the paper. Can you find the ingredients for a nutritious dinner?



APRIL

National Garden Month: Read through the home and garden section of your paper. What are the ads for?

National Poetry Month: Visit the library and check out some poetry books to read with your child.

National Frog Month: Who knew there is so much to learn about frogs?

Keep America Beautiful Month: Look in the newspaper for organizations sponsoring clean-up activities or start one of your own.

MAY

National Postcard Week: During the first week of May, buy a postcard about your city or state, write a note with your child and mail it to a family member or friend.

National Pet Week: Take some time the first week of May to learn more about your dog, cat, fish or other pet.

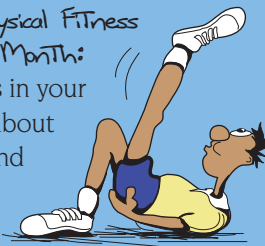
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month: Look for tips in your newspaper about keeping fit and healthy.

JUNE

Zoo and Aquarium Month: If there's a zoo or aquarium nearby, plan a family outing. Check the paper for special events.

Flag Day: Old Glory ... the Stars and Stripes. Look in the newspaper for celebrations in your area on or around June 14.

National Dairy Month: With your child, go through the newspaper and cut out every dairy product you find.



JULY

National Picnic Month: Use the weather forecast in the newspaper to pick a bright, sunny day for a family picnic.

National Recreation Month: Look for photos in the newspaper of people enjoying recreational activities such as hiking, biking, tennis and more.

Independence Day: Why is the Fourth of July important? Find a list of events in the newspaper's weekend or community section.

AUGUST

American Artist Appreciation Month: Look in your newspaper's weekend or arts section for an article on an art exhibit or openings of art gallery shows.

National Watermelon Day: On Aug. 3, celebrate one of nature's biggest fruits by eating a watermelon.

National Peach Month: Check your newspaper for a farm where you can pick your own peaches. Not in your area? Then find a peach in a supermarket ad.

SEPTEMBER

Library Card Sign-up Month: Take your child to the local library to get a library card.

Read a New Book Month: Now that your child has a library card, help him select a new book to read this month.

Baby Safety Month: Find tips in the newspaper or on the Internet about how to make your home safe for young children.



OCTOBER

National Pizza Month: Find something in the paper that goes in or on a pizza.

Columbus Day: Take a family trip to the library to see what you can discover.

Computer Learning Month: What types of jobs use computers? (Hint: Check the classified ads in the newspaper.)

NOVEMBER

Good Nutrition Month: Use the newspaper to create a food pyramid, cutting out pictures of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy products and meat/beans.

Latin American Month: Encourage your child to look for newspaper articles about Latin American countries.

Peanut Butter Lover's Month: So much to learn about peanut butter ... so little time.

DECEMBER

Write to a Friend Month: Encourage your child to write a letter to a friend or relative.

Bill of Rights Day: On Dec. 15, talk to your child about the first 10 amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

First Day of Winter: Invite your child to write a poem or story about her favorite part of winter or encourage her to draw a wintry scene.

